



LAGO VISTA ISD — THE ROAD TO COLLEGE TIMELINE

8TH GRADE

- Take the LVISD-sponsored PSAT 8/9 in October and do your best.
- Use your PSAT 8/9 results to study in Khan Academy.
- Get to know yourself! Take a personality and interest inventory on Roadtrip Nation to begin exploring careers you might be interested in, majors that align to those careers, get high school course ideas, and try out what you like!
- Attend spring course selection information sessions.
- Carefully read the course guide and carefully choose courses and an endorsement for high school.
- Complete a four-year high school Personal Graduation Plan.
- Begin researching colleges that offer programs that might interest you.
- Take part in opportunities to build a college portfolio – extracurricular activities, volunteering, leadership opportunities, etc.

9TH GRADE

- Take courses that are challenging and work to your full potential.
- Begin researching colleges – Look up the programs/majors that interest you, where they are offered, and the GPA, standardized test scores, and admissions requirements to start your list of colleges that interest you.
- Take the LVISD-sponsored PSAT 8/9 in October and do your best.
- Use your PSAT 8/9 results to study in Khan Academy for the PSAT/NMSQT next year.
- Attend the LVISD College Planning Night in the fall.
- Learn about the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) requirements if you want to play sports in college.
- Be a self-advocate, attend tutorials, and do not let yourself fall behind in your classes...remember grades = GPA.
- Begin collecting your report cards, test scores, honors, school activities, community activities, and work experience to begin building your college portfolio.
- Explore dual credit and AP opportunities for next year and see how they match up to the colleges that interest you. Be sure you meet requirements for dual credit if you plan to enroll!

10TH GRADE

- Review your personal graduation plan to ensure you are on track.
- Take courses that are challenging and continue working to your full potential.
- Continue researching colleges – Look up the programs/majors that interest you, where they are offered, and the GPA, standardized test scores, and admissions requirements to begin narrowing down the list of colleges that interest you.
- Take the LVISD-sponsored PSAT/NMSQT in October and do your best...one more year before you're eligible for scholarship consideration!
- Use your PSAT/NMSQT results to study in Khan Academy.
- Take the ACT-Aspire test in the fall if you plan on taking the ACT.
- Continue to review college publications.
- Attend the LVISD College and Career Fair in the spring and talk to the college personnel.
- Study to make your grades representative of your abilities.
- Be a self-advocate, attend tutorials, and do not let yourself fall behind in your classes...remember grades = GPA.
- Continue adding to your portfolio.
- Explore dual credit and AP opportunities for next year and see how they match up to the colleges that interest you. Be sure you meet requirements for dual credit if you plan to enroll!
- Register and prepare for AP exams if you have taken an AP course this year.
- Begin to visit colleges in the summer, especially if you are interested in a highly selective college.

11TH GRADE

- Review your personal graduation plan to ensure you are on track.
- Meet with the counselor to decide on courses for senior year and to discuss post graduation plans.
- Ensure your high school course selections meet the admissions requirements of the college you plan to attend.
- See your counselor if you are on free/reduced lunch and need financial assistance for college entrance exams and college applications fees.
- Narrow your top college choices – Use your two visits!
- Take the LVISD-sponsored PSAT/NMSQT in October and do your best...this one determines if you're eligible for scholarship consideration.
- Use your PSAT/NMSQT results to study in Khan Academy.
- Register to take the SAT and/or ACT in the late spring.
- Consider taking a full-length practice SAT/ACT before taking the real test.
- Attend the LVISD College and Career Fair in the spring and talk to the college personnel.
- Apply for any scholarships that your parents' employers may provide and any scholarships that are available to junior competition.
- Send for college information and applications.
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center if you plan to play Division I or II athletics.
- Explore dual credit and AP opportunities for next year and see how they match up to the colleges that interest you.
- Register and prepare for AP exams if you have taken an AP course this year.
- Talk with at least one teacher about writing a letter of recommendation for college admissions.
- Start drafting your college essays.
- Start researching scholarship opportunities to be aware of the qualifying criteria and deadlines.

SUMMER BEFORE 12TH GRADE

- Plan your college applications timeline, ensuring that you are aware of application and scholarship deadlines.
- Narrow down your college list and begin the application process.
- Send early decision applications in June and July.
- Review your SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject Tests. Consider registering for a fall test date....keep college application deadlines in mind!
- Decide whom you will ask to write your letters of recommendation, if required.
- Create a "brag sheet" of your accomplishments to give to anyone you ask to write a letter of recommendation and remember to give at least three weeks notice to ensure that you get a thoughtful, quality letter of recommendation.

12TH GRADE

- Attend a FASFA Workshop with your parents.
- Finalize college choices...use your two visits!
- Register for the SAT and/or ACT a second time in October or November, if needed to improve your score.
- Register for SAT Subject Test(s), if required for college admission.
- Begin collecting your letters of recommendation – teachers get a lot of requests, so ask early! Remember to provide a brag sheet and give at least three weeks notice to ensure that you get a thoughtful, quality letter of recommendation.
- Complete the Texas Common Application at www.applytexas.org.
- Send the Financial Aid applications (FAFSA) as soon as possible after October 1st!
- Apply for any scholarships for which you may qualify.
- Send regular decision applications in the fall semester (preferably by December 1).
- Send housing applications in early fall, especially to colleges that are highly competitive for dorm space.
- Register and prepare for AP exams if you have taken an AP course this year.
- If you've taken dual credit courses, order your University of Texas or ACC transcript to be sent to the college you're planning to attend.